

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (original) A strapping machine comprising:  
a housing;  
a mount on the housing attachable to an overhead balancer line;  
tensioning and sealing devices in the housing;  
an elongated handle pivotal about an axis on the housing between an open position and a closed position and having an outer end remote from the axis and an inner end close to the axis, the inner end of the handle being formed with an annular inlet passage and a radially throughgoing inlet port opening into the inlet passage, the handle also being formed with axially extending passages extending from the inlet passage to the outer handle end;  
a pneumatic motor in the outer handle end;  
a transmission in the inner end of the handle and connected to the motor and to the tensioning and sealing devices in the housing;  
an inlet fitting on the housing connectable to a compressed-air supply line; and  
a conduit having one end connected to the housing and communicating with the inlet fitting and an opposite end opening radially inward into the inlet port of the handle, whereby compressed air from the inlet fitting can flow through the conduit and the inlet port to the inlet passage and thence via the axial

passages to the motor to power same, the outer handle end being formed with an outlet opening for venting air from the motor.

1           2. (original) The strapping machine defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the axial passages are formed by axially extending and  
3 radially inwardly open grooves in the handle and by an outer  
4 surface of the transmission radially inwardly closing the grooves.

1           3. (currently amended) The strapping machine defined in  
2 claim 2 wherein the handle is formed at the outer handle end with  
3 [[a]] an annular outlet passage into which the axially extending  
4 grooves open and that in [[turns]] turn opens into the motor.

1           4. (currently amended) The strapping machine defined in  
2 claim 3, further comprising a seal compressed radially between the  
3 [[rotor]] transmission and an inner surface of the handle and  
4 positioned between the outlet passage and the inner handle end.

1           5. (currently amended) The strapping machine defined in  
2 claim 1 wherein the handle ~~has at its~~ outer end [[and]] carries an  
3 end cap formed with the outlet opening.

1           6. (currently amended) The strapping machine defined in  
2 claim 5, further comprising  
3           sound-deadening material forming a muffler in the cap  
4 between the cap and the [[rotor]] transmission.

1           7. (original) The strapping machine defined in claim 1  
2 wherein the inlet fitting is closely juxtaposed and aligned with a  
3 center of the mount, the conduit being fixed on the handle and the  
4 one end of the conduit being rotatably connected at the axis to the  
5 housing, the machine further comprising:

6           a valve block in the housing connected between the inlet  
7 fitting and the one end of the conduit.

1           8. (original) The strapping machine defined in claim 7  
2 wherein the conduit has one end extending parallel to and offset  
3 from the axis and fixed to the handle and another end extending on  
4 the axis and rotatably seated at the axis in the valve block.

1           9. (currently amended) The strapping machine defined in  
2 claim 8 wherein one of the [[arms]] conduit ends is provided with a  
3 flow-adjusting valve.